

OAS-0149
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2 March 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Comments Concerning Use of the "C" Camera for Peripheral Reconnaissance

REFERENCE : Memorandum For the Record, Dtd. 16 Jan. 1959, Same Subj.

1. In the Agency's evaluation of long-focal-length (large scale) oblique photography the requirement must be considered secondary for two reasons. First, in relation to the overall photo reconnaissance problem, long-focal-length (100 inches or longer) oblique photography will satisfy only a very small portion of intelligence requirements. secondly, it is understood that the Agency's reconnaissance mission does not encompass peripheral type reconnaissance, this mission being retained by the Air Force.
2. Continued use of the U-2 for penetration type missions has been questioned for some time and the reason for investigation and development of a follow-on vehicle (GUSTO) and reconnaissance equipments. Weight and space limitations imposed by GUSTO air craft design preclude use of configurations similar to the "C" Camera or units having long focal lengths (100 inches or more).
3. Through the use of J-75 engines the life expectancy of the U-2 will possibly be prolonged. The increase of mission profile altitude (2,500 to 4,000 ft.) is not sufficient to dictate use of the "C" Camera Configuration. For example, with the B Camera there is only a small decrease in photographic scale (1:21,000 to 1:22,000 and 1:22,750 to 1:24,000 respectively) with the estimated increase in altitude.
4. The only proposal (Dated 15 Jan. 1959 and on file in R&D office) for completion or continued development of the "C" Camera is from F&E. Their proposal is to continue development and deliver the Camera to a detachment in 36 weeks. Cost is estimated at \$250,000.00. Only 21 weeks or less than six months are allocated to repair of the camera. The balance of the time is for flight test and other operations. Also of great importance is the fact that F&E is not willing to offer any form of guarantee or assurance that the camera will produce satisfactorily after completion of the above proposed development.

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5. From past experience with long folded optics the undersigned feels that 36 weeks and \$250,000.00 is neither sufficient time or money to turn the present configuration into an operational piece of equipment. It is felt that at least 18 months would be required and of course cost would increase accordingly.

6. In view of the above, which is summarized below, it is recommended that continued development of the "C" Camera not be favorably considered at this time.

a. Peripheral reconnaissance is part of the Air Force Mission and not part of the agency mission.

b. Follow-on vehicles will not be capable of carrying configuration similar to the "C" Camera.

c. It is not believed possible to turn the present camera into an operational piece of equipment in the time specified in the proposal.

d. The contractor is not willing to offer assurance that the camera will function satisfactorily at the end of the proposed development program.

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Major USAF

CONCURRENCE

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Lt Col. USAF

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DPD-3D/P: [redacted] :arp
Dist.

Orig. - Mr. Bissell

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